



Fiji Chiefly Necklace

A very fine batinivuaka – a chiefly neck ornament worn at the base of the neck. Boar's tusk pendants were an important part of ceremonial, dance and war attire. In the late 1700s and early 1800s with the introduction of glass beads attached to the fiber ties, they served as symbols of chiefly status and were worn only by those of recognized rank. Throughout the Pacific region pigs are high value items and currency, and a boar's tusk – especially one that had grown to a full circle was indicative of one's wealth, strength and influence. Fiji, Polynesia. Pigs tusk, vau, (Hibiscus tileaceus string), and glass trade-beads. Total : 37 cm; pendant : 11 cm. 19th century. Ex coll.: The artist John E. Grant, Victoria, Australia (1884-1957).